

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 5-63 are pending in this Application. Claims 9-12, 15-17, and 33-63 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1, 5-7, 13, 14, 18-21, 23-27, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 1, 5-8, 13, 14, and 18-32 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner maintained the rejections of claims 1, 5-7, 13, 14, 18-21, 23-27, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 5,527,838 to Afzali-Ardakani et al. ("*Afzali-Ardakani*") for reasons of record. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons presented below.

A rejection under Section 102 is proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically described or disclosed in the prior art. *In re Arkley*, 455 F.2d 586, 587 (C.C.P.A. 1972). "For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly." M.P.E.P. § 706.02. Indeed, in order to anticipate the claimed invention, a reference must "clearly and unequivocally disclose the claimed compound or direct those skilled in the art to the compound without any need for picking, choosing and combining various disclosures." *In re Arkley*, 455 F.2d at 587. Importantly, the absence of a single element or limitation indicates the reference neither describes nor anticipates the claim. M.P.E.P. § 2131.

As stated in Applicants' previous responses, including Applicants' response filed October 30, 2006, which is incorporated by reference herein in full, *Afzali-Ardakani* fails

to expressly or inherently teach a fabric comprising at least one strand comprising a plurality of fibers and having a resin compatible powdered coating composition on at least a portion of a surface of the fabric, the resin compatible powdered coating composition comprising, among other things, a plurality of discrete particles, at least one lubricious material different from the plurality of discrete particles, and at least one film-forming material, wherein the at least one fiber strand comprises at least one glass fiber.

In maintaining that *Afzali-Ardakani* anticipates the present invention, the Examiner reiterates that the fluorine-containing polymer mentioned in *Afzali-Ardakani* is a lubricious material. The Examiner attempts to bolster this assertion by stating that “as part of a molecule fluorine is known to be ‘anti-social’ and seeks to get as far away from other molecules as possible.” Office Action dated January 26, 2007, at 2. The Examiner further argues that “[a]nything close [to a molecule containing fluorine] is automatically repelled and can’t stick, thus lending to the property that is known as being ‘slippery.’” *Id.*

As discussed in Applicants’ July 10, 2006, response, the material disclosed in *Afzali-Ardakani* is a curable material comprising a blend of a fluorine-containing cyanate monomer and a fluorine-containing thermoplastic polymer (also called a “modifier”). See *Afzali-Ardakani*, col. 1, lines 13-16. During the cure of this material, the cyanate monomer reacts with the fluorine-containing polymer to form a resin composed of a cross-linked cyanate network into which the fluorine-containing polymer is incorporated. *Id.*, col. 7, lines 9-22 and col. 3, lines 38-41. Such incorporation involves covalently bonding the thermoplastic monomer to the cyanate monomer. *Id.*, col. 12, lines 37-40

("Reactive functional groups ... permit the modifier to be incorporated by covalent bonding into the polymer network structure"); *see also id.*, col. 7, lines 48-52. The result is a fluorine-containing resin that can, among other things, be used as an adhesive. *Afzali-Ardakani*, col. 1, lines 34-37 ("[T]he present invention relates to a curable material useful in the fabrication of ... adhesives..."); *see also id.*, col. 9, lines 14-15 and col. 10, lines 8-10.

Given that adhesives function to "*bond other substances together* by surface attachment," the Examiner is clearly incorrect in stating that the fluorine-containing compounds, such as the polymer disclosed in *Afzali-Ardakani*, are "slippery." HAWLEY'S CONDENSED CHEMICAL DICTIONARY 22 (14th ed. 2001) (defining adhesive) (emphasis added). Whereas certain fluorine-containing compounds possess lubricious properties, in the current case, the polycyanurate resin disclosed in *Afzali-Ardakani* most certainly does not.

As a result, *Afzali-Ardakani* does not teach each and every aspect of the invention as presently claimed. Therefore, Applicants maintain that the Examiner has not presented a prima facie case of anticipation. Applicants therefore submit that the rejection is improper and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Afzali-Ardakani*.

III. DOUBLE PATENTING

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5-8, 13, 14, and 18-32 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 5-8, 13, 14, 18-32, 44, 46, 47, and 50 of co-pending Application No. 09/620,526. Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the fact that Application No. 09/620,526 went abandoned on March 3, 2007. As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is improper and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated in view of the prior art reference cited against this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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